

Ch/G/RR

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SA to Ch/G/RR

**Briefing Notes on ORR Area Familiarization and Facilities Survey Travel**

**A. Area Familiarization**

1. The purpose of area familiarization travel is to increase and strengthen our analysts' capability to produce priority foreign intelligence. Area familiarization travel functions as a sophisticated form of training directed at specific Agency needs.

2. The first-hand, trained observation by an analyst of the characteristics of terrain, vegetation, ethnic types, urban and rural settlement, economic activity, and other significant elements of a foreign landscape serves uniquely to up-date and round out concepts acquired through formal education and previous travel. Previously-determined assumptions are confirmed, or replaced, by observed fact and the analyst observes these facts as parts of a total picture. He is enabled to see the "mix," to identify the major relationships involved, and to apply henceforth a truer mental picture in his work.

3. In the case of geographic intelligence, area familiarization travel constitutes a continuing and essential training activity. The geographic analyst is called upon to examine the location, identity, and areal inter-relationship of significant physical and cultural features and to interpret the results in tightly-focused reports that fulfill a variety of headquarters and field needs. Since his research is directed at describing environment, its accuracy and effectiveness depends on his attainment of personal and current familiarity with the area treated. In the academic field, this familiarity is made possible by foreign travel and field work under grants from foundations and the Federal Government (Fulbright), and by sabbatical leave. In the CIA, it is made possible by the area familiarization program. In each case, there is no substitute for the travel performed; a foreign area cannot be effectively viewed from the United States.

4. The geographic intelligence analyst undertakes through travel to fill the gaps in his area knowledge, gain perspective, sharpen his critical faculties, and generally up-date himself. If he cannot

(as in the case of Mainland China) actually enter the foreign area of interest, he can observe neighboring areas which are most nearly analogous to it in the key elements of terrain, climate, population, and culture. For example, travel in Taiwan and the New Territories permits study of types of landforms, vegetation, and culture that are similar to those of areas in South China. Travel in northern Thailand provides excellent opportunities to observe elements of Miao, Lohu, and other tribal groups--and their associated village patterns and economies--that have only recently migrated from South China. Such travel is at least as valuable as the study of available aerial photography of China itself. A real appreciation of a rural village, the intimate relationships between paddy cultivation and terrain, the actual appearance of forest types, and the ease or difficulty of clandestine travel under specified conditions cannot be fully obtained until the researcher has been there.

5. The effect of area familiarization travel is to insure the continuing capability of GRR to undertake research on problems in which understanding of the foreign area concerned is important. Research in support of Unconventional Warfare, evasion and escape, targeting and special operations is particularly demanding of area expertise. Substantial area knowledge is required also in the production of accurate and timely research for estimates, current reporting, and the MIS. In short, area familiarization travel serves to maintain essential research capabilities and assure GRR's readiness for wartime loads.

#### B. Facilities Survey Travel

1. The purpose of facilities survey travel is to familiarize intelligence analysts and technicians with the problems, capabilities, and outlook of their consumers, suppliers, and counterparts abroad. Such travel contributes vastly to reduce field-headquarters conflicts and to facilitate more realistic programs of support and coordination.

2. Facilities survey travel is required in GRR primarily to:

- a. Conduct liaison with [REDACTED] and guide the GRR component thereof (economic intelligence and travel folder). 25X1C8a
- b. Guide Strategic Branch, [REDACTED] 25X1A6a
- c. Review and maintain technical relations with major map publishers and cartographic installations.
- d. Conduct liaison with Theater Commands.

3. The first two categories of travel cited above require no discussion as they constitute necessary elements of the management of an established field activity.

4. The third category relates to GRR's cartographic and mapping intelligence responsibilities, an essential part of which is the maintenance of an awareness of foreign experimentation and accomplishment in these technical fields. The quality of CIA's maps and production of mapping intelligence has benefited substantially in the past through these visits and discussions, and there is no reason to believe that they will not continue to be valuable to us.

5. Visits to Theater Commands (particularly CINCPAC) and other foreign posts serve to facilitate coordination of production, differentiation of similar tasks, and mutual support. Field research and reporting personnel have much of value to contribute to the viewpoints and perceptions of headquarters analysts, and through briefings come to be better able to recognize common problems and to cooperate with CIA in joint action to solve them.

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